



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Conducted via Zoom and in-person @Town Hall Annex 2nd floor Conference Room:

[ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Attendees: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz. Guests: Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden), Olivier Aries, Marina Popova, Roy Goldstein

Items:

1. Review Agenda & Introduce Guests.
2. Previous Action Items Reviewed
 - Susan Brunton (Arlington GIS specialist) provided a map showing locations of trees planted 2016-2020. **Action: Eliza and Steve will divide up list to share for removing tree bags. Tim confirmed that all stakes/bags should be delivered to 33 Ryder Street in the NW corner of the lot. Since the map provided by Susan does not contain addresses, Eliza will connect with Tim to discuss how to manipulate the Tree Inventory data to streamline this process.**
 - Hills Hill: Pruning work near the soccer fields was done by the Town as routine maintenance there, to allow for trash trucks to enter the site.
 - List of recommended trees on the ATC website. Tim provided some recommended additions to the list. **Action: add in the street trees list (with some language about what is a street tree, what is a landscape tree; and some notation that a homeowner cannot plant a 'public street tree', MEA will make these edits to the ATC website.**
 - As discussed at last meeting, the ATC became a member of the Chamber of Commerce. **Action: Eliza will request reimbursement of \$55 from the DPW. Mariela Escobar and Amber Dempsey are the current DPW contacts for accounting.**
 - Steve received from Susan Brunton the email addresses for the 2023 Adopt-a-Tree residents. **Action: Steve will send an end of program letter to MEA, who will send out the annual close-out letter from ATC email account.**
 - **Keith will schedule a social event for the ATC members.**
 - **Co-chairs: Committee will work to schedule a Meet the Committee some AM at a local coffee shop.**
3. Minutes
 - All present voted to APPROVE the November 2023 minutes.
4. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
 - Tree Bylaw Activity
 - 25 Hillcrest Ave. submitted an affidavit (new requirement as of January 2023 under Article 16) that stated the absence of private and public trees. Tim double-checked and is grateful for the addition of this affidavit.
 - Tree Hearings
 - 52 Huntington St. requestor that was denied at the tree hearing last Fall has decided not to take it to the Select Board.
 - Town Projects & Maintenance Activities

- DPW planted 150 trees last Fall (mainly fulfilling tree requests, or spaces DPW sees need trees); Tim also takes into consideration the Town's Tree Equity and Heat Island maps.
- Anyone who wants a street tree for the Spring should visit the Town's website Request/Answer page.
- Other
 - Tim submitted Tree City USA application, with an additional submission for an "additional growth" award, adding the additional items the Town and the ATC does.
 - Questions: 149 Pleasant St. (Historic District review meeting) question regarding when the Tree Preservation Bylaw comes into play for this property. Tim explained that Historic District Commission approvals come first and then, once it is determined what will be built on a property, the applicant approaches the Building Inspector for a building permit, which will trigger compliance with the Bylaw and the need to submit a Tree Plan as part of the permitting process.
 - Tim met with MA DOT: Safe Passage to Schools (Stratton district): there will be six public shade trees (Norway Maple, Linden, Maple, Ash) that will be removed. **Action: Tim will share with Steve what he thinks are areas where healthy trees might be able to be kept.**

5. New Member Interest and Next Steps

- ATC is pleased that there has been so much recent interest in new membership. Prospective members were asked to submit a letter of interest and/or resume and attend two meetings. After this, they were asked to reach out to co-chairs to confirm continued interest. **Action: Following these steps, prospective members will then be recommended to Select Board for appointment.**

6. By Law Discussion

- Susan provided a warrant draft for committee to review, word-smith, and vote. Following discussion and edits, the warrant article was APPROVED 6-0. **Action: Co-chairs will share the draft Warrant Article with Mike Rademacher, and then Susan will take the draft to Town Counsel for review and input.**
- January -- Warrant Article due
 - As part of this bylaw amendment discussion, Mara (in collaboration with Ed) presented a few options for a new mitigation fee schedule in Arlington that considers that as a tree gets older it gets more valuable to the Town. Her calculations compared DBH step functions vs. \$ / sq. ft. in a quadratic function. She presented a series of graphs to illustrate different concepts. Comparison was made to Cambridge's value for tree removal (\$850/DBH, with various caveats). **Action: Susan will review what other towns are charging; Mary Ellen will try to simplify the explanation of the math when making a final selection, make sure the mitigation fee is targeted toward the goal (discourage the removal of trees). It was suggested to use iTree app to calculate the inputs into the value of a tree.**

7. Tree-Related Interactions with the Town

- Adopt-a-Tree: 2023 Close-Out -- **Steve will be drafting a letter and send to MEA for sending.**
- Town Committees / Boards report: No discussion.

8. New Business

- Member renewals, swearing in, conflict of interest.
- Other -- Targeted mailing for Community Canopy Program will be discussed at January's meeting (**Eliza will discuss a tool that could be used for a more targeted approach to our outreach).**
- Susan mentioned that ACMI would be very willing to provide equipment and space for the ATC to execute a video story about tree care or any other topic. Perhaps this could be another way to engage students at the High School. **Action: Eliza will reach out to Annika to discuss.**

9. Review New Actions: No time for review.

Adjourned: 9:21 PM